

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT *JH*OGC REVIEW
COMPLETED

: John S. Warner

DATE: 18 August 1952

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FROM

SUBJECT: Administration of

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1. This is a supplement to my memorandum of this date on the same subject.

2. The question has been raised as to the status of the Atomic Energy Commission in the atolls of Bikini and Eniwetok. According to the best information available, the Interior Department has not been divested of its jurisdiction over Bikini and Eniwetok. AEC was already operating on these two atolls when Interior took over administration of the trust territories of the Pacific Islands. A letter was sent by Interior to AEC stating that the transfer of administration from the Navy Department would not affect the operations of AEC. This has apparently been the case. The few inhabitants who were on the atolls were removed prior to the commencement of AEC operations. The AEC, through its contractors, operates the utilities and facilities on the two atolls.

3. The AEC entered these atolls in the following manner. First, an agreement was reached between the interested departments, including Navy, AEC and State. This agreement was then approved by the President after which the Secretary of State advised the U. N. Security Council that the area was being withdrawn from U. N. inspection pursuant to Article XIII of the Trusteeship Agreement. Bikini was obtained by AEC in 1946 and Eniwetok in 1947. Both cases were widely publicized at the time.

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